

Adopt-A-Center

The Adopt-A-Center program allows area organizations such as businesses, military units and service groups to join in partnership with a recreation facility. By giving just a minimum of three hours a month for a year, adopters can help enrich leisure experiences, expand programming, improve the self-esteem of youth participants, provide realistic role models, decrease at-risk youth behaviors, and foster the practice of community service and good citizenship.

Adoption opportunities are as diverse as Norfolk's recreation operations. There are 20 general recreation centers, two senior centers, a therapeutic recreation center devoted to persons with disabilities, and specialty centers in art, dance, music, aquatics, outdoor recreation and athletics.

The adopting organization will quickly recognize its ability to make a strong and lasting impact on a child's future. For more information about Adopt-A-Center and other ways your organization can "Help Dreams Grow," call 441-2400.

City of Norfolk Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

- Mr. Thomas O. Duffey (Vice-Chair)
- Dr. Vicki Swecker
- The Honorable Hal J. Bonney, Jr.
- Mr. George H. Curtis III
- Mr. Dwight McDowell
- Mr. John E. Roger
- Mr. Jared Turner

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission serves in an advisory role to City Council. You may contact them by mail at 501 Boush Street, Norfolk, Virginia, 23510, or by e-mail at neighborhoods@norfolk.gov.

Director's Message

All around town, folks are happily preparing for the holidays. We at Neighborhood & Leisure Services (NLS) are eagerly preparing for the after-holiday delight of providing you with new and exciting opportunities to engage in life, develop lifelong interests, improve recreational skills and greatly enhance your quality of life.

As you peruse this latest edition of Good Times Great Neighborhoods, take a moment to consider what makes you happy, proud, and successful. Chances are that recreation and leisure activities played a role in making you who you are today. We all know that successful, happy individuals constantly look for ways to develop skills, increase physical coordination, engage in constructive creative outlets, and always challenge their minds and bodies. With that in mind, consider participating in an activity that you have not tried before! Challenge your self. You'll be surprised.

With this issue, NLS accepted a challenge to distribute Good Times Great Neighborhoods to the wider Norfolk community. Changes to the page format and over-all size have permitted us to insert the publication in the Virginia Pilot newspaper. Our hope is that a wider distribution will encourage more of your friends and neighbors to participate in community building activities.

NLS mission is to provide leadership, policies and programs to preserve and maintain safe, strong, and sustainable neighborhoods. We invite you to encourage your family and friends to meet each other, communicate your dreams and hopes, enjoy "good times", and create the kind of "great neighborhood" you always wanted!

Through the many services we offer, be it recreation and leisure services, grassroots community building, preserving neighborhoods, youth development or parks and urban forestry, NLS is your partner in creating a stable and healthy community.

If you have questions, ideas or suggestions, please contact me personally at 441-2400 to discuss your neighborhood needs.

Sincerely  
**Iris Jessie**, Acting Director  
Neighborhood and Leisure Services

